

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 OIC-02 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC

SUBJECT: GATT HANDLING OF THE LOME CONVENTION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 4606

BELLOW IS THE OFFICIAL ENGLISH TEXT OF THE PROPOSED LTTER FROM THE EC TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GATT IN PRESENTATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION, AS THE TXT EMERGED FROM THE MAY 28 MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIUS. THE TEXT HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE MEMBER STATES WITH ONE BRACKETED ADDITION REQUESTED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION BUT OPPOSED BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. A REPORT OF THE DISCUSSION IS CONTAINED IN A SEPTEL. TH FOLLOWING IS THE TXT. BEGIN TEXT

SIR,

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED, FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, THE TEXT OF THE CONVENTION SIGNED IN LOME (TOGO) ON 28 FEBRUARY 1975 BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, THEIR MEMBER STATES AND 46 AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES,

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OF WHICH THE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED AT ITS MEETING ON 24 MARCH.

I SHOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU, IN THIS CONNECTION, AS WAS
ALREADY STATED ON 24 MARCH, THAT THIS TEXT IS BEING FOR-
WARDED FOR THE SAKE OF COURTESY AND EFFICIENCY WITH REGARD
TO THE C.O. BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL RATIFICA-
TION OR ADOPTION PROCEDURES, WHICH ALON WILL GIVE THE
CONVNCTION FULL LEGAL VALIDITY AND EXISTENCE. NEVERTHELESS,
AS WAS STATED BY THE EC REPRESENTATIVE ON THAT SAME
OCCASION, THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION WILL PUT ITS TRADE
PROVISIONS INTO FORCE AS FROM 1 JULY 1975.

ALSO REFERRING TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY TH COMMUNITY
REPRESENTATIV TO TH COUNCIL ON 24 MARCH, I WOULD POINT OUT
THAT THE COMMUNITY IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE LOME
CONVENTION INTRODUCES A NEW MODEL FOR ECONOMIC OOPERATION
IN GENERAL AND FOR TRADE RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR BETWEEN
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH A LONG
HISTORY OF SPECIAL AND PRIVILEGED RELATIONS WHOSE VALIDITY AND
PERMANENT NATUR WERE EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED IN THE GENERAL
AGREEMENT.

THE TRADE ARRANGEMENTS INTRODUCED BY THE LOME CONVENTION
SUPERSEDE THOSE WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN THE EUROPE OF THE SIX
AND SOME ACP STATES AND BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
IRELAND AND OTHER ACP STATES.

IT REPRESENTS THE ADAPTATION, IN THE FORM OF COMMON
ARRANGEMENTS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE
CUSTOMS UNION SET UP BETWEEN THE NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE
COMMUNITY, OF THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THE MEMBER
STATES EACH APPLIED TO THE VARIOUS ACP STATES.

UNDER THIS NEW CONVENTION, THE EEC RESPECTS THE
OBLIGATION TO ABOLISH CUSTOMS DUTIES AND OTHER RESTRICTIVE TRADE
REGULATIONS IN TH GREATER PART OF ITS TRADE WITH THE ACP
STATES (IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XXIV OF GATT)(1).

MINDFUL OF THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF ITS PARTNERS AND OF
THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN PART IV OF THE GENRAL AGREEMENT,
THE COMMUNITY DID NOT INSIST ON RECIPROCITY IN ITS TRADE WITH
THE ACP STATES. ALL OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOME CONVENTION
AND SOME OF ITS INNOVATIONS IN PARTICULAR, REFLECT THE WILL OF
THE EEC TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACP STATES' DEVELOPMENT EFFORT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY TO A FAIRER AND MORE BALANCED ECONOMIC ORDER.

THE COMMUNITY IS THEREFORE CONVINCED THAT THE CONVENTION
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IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF GATT AND COMPLIES FULLY
WITH THE OBJECTIVES WHICH GOVERN AND MOTIVATE GATT AND THE
ACTION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. IT ACCORDINGLY REQUESTS
THAT THE CONVENTION BE EXAMINED AS SUCH FOR ITS OWN MERITS
IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT.

THE EEC IS PREPARED TO LEND ITS FULL COOPERATION TO THIS
EXAMINATION, WHICH IT ASKS ALL ITS PARTNERS TO GATT TO
APPROACH WITH THE SAME OPEN MIND, AND IT CONSIDERS THAT SUCH

AN APPROACH CAN, IN GENERAL, CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS IN
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

PLEASE ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.GREENWALD

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